

APRIL 22, 1976

ELECTION '76: DEMOCRATS FACEOFF IN PENNSYLVANIA

ANNCR:

AFTER A THREE-WEEK LULL, THE 1976 ELECTION CAMPAIGN RESUMES NEXT TUESDAY AS VOTERS MOVE TO THE POLLS IN PENNSYLVANIA, THE NATION'S FOURTH LARGEST STATE IN TERMS OF POPULATION. WITH PRESIDENT FORD RUNNING UNOPPOSED IN THE STATE'S REPUBLICAN PRIMARY, ATTENTION HAS SHIFTED TO THE HOTLY-CONTESTED RACE AMONG THE DEMOCRATS. CHARLES MEDD HAS THESE OBSERVATIONS.

VOICE:

THE DEMOCRATS ARE SAYING PENNSYLVANIA WILL BE THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIMARY OF ALL, SOMETHING THEY'VE SAID ABOUT EARLIER ELECTIONS, BUT FOR ONCE THEY MAY BE RIGHT. AFTER THREE MONTHS OF PRIMARIES AND OTHER PARTY CONTESTS, JIMMY CARTER, THE FORMER GOVERNOR OF GEORGIA, HAS BECOME THE MAN TO BEAT. MISTER CARTER NOT ONLY LEADS IN THE RACE FOR DELEGATES TO THE PARTY'S NOMINATING CONVENTION, HE NOW FOR THE FIRST TIME LEADS ALL OTHER DEMOCRATS IN TERMS OF VOTER POPULARITY. NOWHERE DOES SUCCESS BREED MORE SUCCESS THAN IN A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN, AND IF THE CARTER STEAMROLLER IS TO BE STOPPED, NEXT WEEK'S ELECTION COULD BE THE RIGHT TIME AND PLACE TO DO IT.

IN PENNSYLVANIA, A STOP-CARTER MOVEMENT HAS BEEN FORMED BY STATE PARTY OFFICIALS AND THEIR ALLIES IN ORGANIZED LABOR. OSTENSIBLY, THIS COALITION IS SUPPORTING SENATOR HENRY JACKSON, ALTHOUGH IT'S AN OPEN SECRET THAT MOST OF THE STATE'S TOP DEMOCRATS FAVOR SENATOR HUBERT HUMPHREY, WHO

IS NOT AN ACTIVE CANDIDATE. THE HUMPHREY FORCES SEE A JACKSON VICTORY AS A MEANS OF KEEPING THE NOMINATION OPEN AND AWAY FROM JIMMY CARTER'S GRASP.

COMPLICATING THE PENNSYLVANIA ELECTION IS THE FACT THAT VOTERS WILL BE MARKING TWO DIFFERENT BALLOTS. ON ONE, THEY WILL CHOOSE DELEGATES TO THE PARTY'S NOMINATING CONVENTION, BUT SINCE MOST OF THE DELEGATES ARE CAMPAIGNING INDEPENDENTLY OF THE MAJOR CANDIDATES, THE RESULTS OF THIS CONTEST MAY BE HARD TO DECIPHER.

WHAT THE DEMOCRATS DO WITH THEIR OTHER BALLOTS WILL BE MUCH EASIER TO UNDERSTAND. THERE THEY WILL MARK THEIR CHOICE FOR PRESIDENT, A CHOICE NOT BINDING ON THE DELEGATES BUT SIMPLY AN INDICATION OF CURRENT VOTER SENTIMENT. IT'S FROM THIS CONTEST THAT DEMOCRATS ELSEWHERE WILL KNOW WHETHER THE CARTER STEAMROLLER HAS BEEN STOPPED OR WHETHER IT'S TIME TO CLIMB ABOARD.

L/RCS